

222509

February 27, 2010

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Att: Docketing Dept.: Ref. Docket No. 2009-489-E and b
P.O. Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are outraged at the timing of SCE&G's request for a new rate hike that will boost residential power bills for the average consumer to \$140.00 a year. We are already aware that you have higher rates than other investor-owned utilities, like Santee-Cooper.

Each year, we have seen hikes, and this past December and January are bills were astronomical, despite our trying to keep our thermostat at 68 degrees and utilizing other energy strategies as well.

As you are well aware, these are rough economic rough times for most Americans. South Carolina has the third highest unemployment in the country.

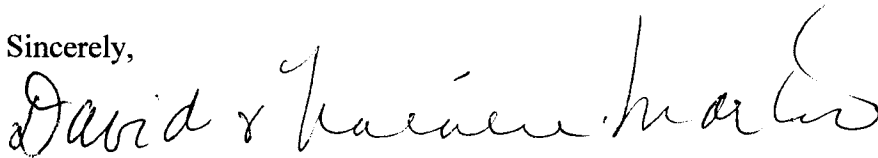
In addition, we have had numerous power outages in the almost eight years that we have lived here. Due to that, we have lost appliances. Yes, we have talked to our local office. They tell us it is the grid, squirrels or tree limbs. But it doesn't seem to get resolved. When we had the recent snowstorm, we lost power for almost twenty hours. I tell you all this because we don't feel that we have a good "system" to begin with and now you want us to pay more for it!

Please reconsider your hike. We understand that you have to make a profit and small increases are necessary, but this hike is unacceptable. You will have many people unable to pay their bills and the elderly and poor will only suffer more.

Thank you for considering your financial alternatives and absorbing some costs so that you don't have to pass them on to us...your customers.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



David and Natalie Martin

Note: We can be reached at (843)486-0461.

411 West 2nd South St.
Summerville SC 29483

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